

As usual, the Republicans are talking out of both sides of their mouths—offering us false promises of tax cuts, reduced deficits, and balanced budgets.

Well, I do not know who is advising all these Republican candidates—who all claim to be agents of change—to come to Washington and sign a contract written by the Republican leadership, but I sure hope it has a sanity clause.

By the way, it is no secret that there is a huge Republican fundraiser in Washington later that night. Which is probably the real reason these Republican candidates are coming.

HEALTH CARE REFORM FOR THE SELF-EMPLOYED

(Mrs. MEYERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday of this week I introduced H.R. 5062, a bill to make permanent the 25 percent deduction for health costs of the self-employed. The deduction expired in December, but small business owners have been promised for over a year that health care reform would preserve this health insurance deduction and even perhaps increase it. Now that a larger health care reform package does not appear viable, we must continue to offer this minimal health care deduction to our small businesses.

Over 100 cosponsors, from both sides of the aisle, have already gone on record supporting small business and the self-employed through this permanent extension of the 25-percent deduction. The National Association of the Self-Employed and the National Federation for Independent Business both support this extension. I expect to have well over 200 cosponsors by the end of next week. Please be sure to support the small entrepreneurs in your district by cosponsoring H.R. 5062.

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA CALLED A CONTRACT FOR FAILURE

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I joined my Democratic colleagues in shedding some light on the latest publicity stunt from the Republican leadership in the House. This time, the minority whip and company are inviting candidates to come to Washington and sign their allegiance to the GOP agenda—a blood oath to support an array of feel-good proposals. Election-year gimmickry aside, the problem with the Republicans' so called contract with America is that it is a contract for failure.

An article in yesterday's Wall Street Journal points out the problems. It is the same old thing from Republicans:

tax breaks for the wealthy and budget smoke and mirrors.

The GOP promises a balanced-budget and \$200 billion in tax cuts. How can they do that? They cannot. Even the most regressive budget legislation comes up \$700 billion short. The only way to pay for this budget boondoggle is by cutting Social Security, Medicare or raising taxes. That is not what the American people want and that is not a contract any hard working American would sign.

The American people want us to fight crime, expand student loans, create jobs, and retrain our workers. That is what Democrats have delivered. The choice is clear in this election: A record of achievement or a contract for failure.

GLIDE PATH TO A HOLLOW FORCE?

(Mr. KASICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, the Washington Post reports today that the Navy has announced it is canceling paid drill for Navy reservists for at least the remainder of the month. Why did they cancel the training? There is no money left in the training budget. This situation is especially ironic because of our current occupation of Haiti, an action that the American people do not feel is in our national interest. That occupation will cost this country at least a quarter of a billion dollars by the end of this year with more costs into the future.

The President has done nothing to allay the suspicion that his administration is starving the military of funds while at the same time sending them on risky, costly missions that are not relevant to the national security needs of our Nation. This is a prescription for a hollow military force. If the present trends continue, training will deteriorate, combat readiness will decline, and the willingness to reenlist will dwindle.

In Desert Storm, our forces defeated the fourth largest army in the world in 100 hours. Why? Because they had the equipment, because they were trained to peak combat readiness, and they were given a clear mission.

A little more than 3 years later, we are seeing the fabric of readiness begin to shred as a result of the administration's misguided defense cuts and a confused foreign policy. They better straighten it out.

AMERICA'S TRADE DEFICIT

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, let me point out to my friends that the free traders who brought us \$100 billion trade deficits over the past decade, that have decimated good-paying jobs

in America, 3.2 million manufacturing jobs lost since 1979; the folks who brought us NAFTA which has led to a 32 percent decrease in our trade advantage with Mexico coupled with a 32 percent increase in United States investment, over 8 thousand more jobs lost; and the very same free traders who idly talk for partial agreements with Japan even as the United States racked up one of its worst monthly trade deficits with Japan—\$5.7 billion in July, or using the administration's own calculation of 20,000 jobs for every billion dollars of trade, in stark terms, over 100,000 United States jobs lost because of our trade deficit with one country in July—well, this same group now wants to see you GATT.

They want to give GATT to you like a fast ball, with no amendment, with no real hearings, and they want to take their stealth bill of 1994 and pass it in the wee hours before this session ends.

Just remember, I told you so. As reported by the Washington Post, the United States could wind up with its worst trade year in history. This after oh so many years of trade agreements like GATT. When are we going to wake up and sign trade agreements that benefit America for a change?

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DEMOCRATS SCARED OF LOSING ELECTION

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, what is wrong with making a contract with the American people to bring a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution to the floor of the House? What is wrong with bringing a line-item veto bill to the floor of the House? What is wrong about bringing welfare reform legislation to the House floor? What is wrong with bringing tax fairness for senior citizens legislation to the floor of the House?

That is what the contract we are going to make with the American people next week will promise. We are going to promise in the first 100 days of a Republican Congress we will vote on this kind of legislation.

So why are the Democrats screaming to high heaven—because they are scared to death? They lost election after election after election. The Speaker of this House this week only got 35 percent of the vote in the State of Washington. They are terrified that for the first time in 40 years the Republicans are going to take control of this House.

My friends, wake up. You are out of touch with America. The people want change. They want a contract, not a promise.

PASS GATT NOW

(Mrs. KENNELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I heard the gentleman's remarks and I am not scared this morning. I just wanted you to know that. But I am a little nervous about one thing, and the one thing I am just a little nervous about is that we will not have an opportunity to pass the Guaranteed Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, GATT, is very, very important not only to this body, not only to this country, but internationally as well. How the world looks at us is going to be very dependent on passing GATT before we adjourn.

GATT also has incredible economic ramifications. There is no doubt in my mind that the next 10 to 20 years will be impacted greatly by this agreement. The future of this country is tied to our trade situation and passage will help us prosper and expand jobs in this country. We should pass GATT before we adjourn. Hopefully we will pass it by a good margin and hopefully we will be able to go into the next century as a strong trading country.

VOTE REPUBLICAN FOR CHANGE

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I have heard my friends on this side of the aisle, the Democrats, complain about the contract that the Republicans are offering. In a nutshell, it comes down to one thing. If you think this Government is too big, spends too much money, and there is no accountability, then you should vote Republican. If you think we need government spending then you should vote Democrat. And if you believe we need accountability after 42 years of one party running this place and would like to see an outside accounting firm tell you how the dollars have been spent then you should vote Republican, because the contract the Republicans have is going to do many many things, including real reform.

The Democrats provided in the first 100 days of this Congress the largest tax increase in American history, increased Government spending, taxing Social Security recipients, and drastically cutting the defense budget.

I ask my colleagues, think about this: Are you happy with the status quo? Then vote Democrat. If you are not, vote for real change: Republican.

FEHBP COVERAGE OF BONE MARROW TRANSPLANTS AS TREATMENT FOR BREAST CANCER

(Mr. LEHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute, and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEHMAN. Mr. Speaker, Rebecca Perez-Ford is a 39-year-old mother of three small children who is suffering from stage III inflammatory breast cancer. Ms. Ford has literally been fighting for her life, fighting for the opportunity to raise the young children who need her. Her struggle against cancer, however, has by no means been her biggest challenge. Rather, her greatest obstacle has been a Federal insurance plan which has denied her the means to survive her disease.

I recently testified before the Subcommittee on Compensation and Employee Benefits after learning that the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program [FEHBP] has excluded countless women like Ms. Ford from scientifically advanced, effective treatment for breast cancer. While many FEHBP policies have covered bone marrow transplants for testicular cancer and other diseases, OPM and the insurance companies have claimed that for breast cancer, this procedure is too experimental to be covered. Many noted oncologists, however, maintain that the evidence supporting the use of bone marrow transplants to treat breast cancer is far superior to the evidence supporting the same treatment for testicular cancer.

I was so pleased to read in Wednesday's Washington Post that starting immediately, all FEHBP plans will be required to cover high-dose chemotherapy with autologous bone marrow transplantation in the treatment of breast cancer. This disease is itself a horrendous proposition, and without insurance reimbursement, women are left to bargain for lifesaving treatment.

FEHBP's reluctance to cover bone marrow transplants for breast cancer patients was clearly inconsistent and discriminatory—the revamping of OPM's policy on this issue is a welcome change which is long overdue.

HIDDEN RIPOFFS IN GATT

(Mr. ROHRABACHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, this administration is about to push through Congress one of the worst special interest ripoffs of the American people ever to come through this body and that is saying a lot.

Hidden in the GATT implementation legislation are provisions like the one that will dramatically reduce the patent protection now enjoyed by the American people.

Let me repeat that, the GATT implementation legislation secretly contains a major reduction in the patent protection enjoyed by Americans; 90 percent of the rest of our Members do not even know this. Billions in royalties that would be going to Americans will end up in the bank accounts of Japanese and multinational corporations.

I supported NAFTA strongly. I say let us not pass GATT until the hidden ripoffs are taken out. What are we in such a hurry about? Members are going to hear, oh, we have to do it immediately. They are afraid that this body and the American people are going to find out what is in GATT, hidden in there.

We need to look at this legislation. It should be shelved until next year so the American people and this body will be able to find all of the secret provisions.

Get those ripoffs out of GATT or I am not going to support it.

DEMOCRATS SCARED OF REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, next week on September 27, Republicans from around the country and the incumbents here will stand on the steps of the Capitol and propose a contract with the American people. Last week the President came out and attacked this contract. This week our colleagues on the Democrat side here in the House have attacked it. I am really wondering why. This has not even been unveiled yet.

What Republicans want to do is bring real congressional reform to the House of Representatives. We want to guarantee to the American people that within the first 100 days of a Republican House that 10 bills will be brought to the floor for a full vote, commonsense reforms like a balanced budget amendment, a line-item veto, real welfare reform, a bill to stimulate economic growth, another bill to try to ease the regulatory burdens on the American people.

Yet, our colleagues on the Democrat side who have run this House for 40 years are complaining. Yes, I think they are scared. I think they are scared of losing their election. I think they are really more scared about losing their control over this institution.

Remember, this is not a campaign promise, this is a contract, and if we do not live up to our end of this deal, throw us out.

REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. WALKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, the foreign policy of this country is in shambles and yet Democrats come to the floor of the House of Representatives today largely in fear that the Republicans are going to go out and talk to the American people with a contract, a signed contract to do some real things in the next Congress.

The trade deficit of this country is ballooning but Democrats come to the floor today most worried about the fact that the Republicans might actually